



**Town Shellfish Crier**  
**April 12, 2019**

**1. A Huge Congrats to Johnny Clam and Chris: Deputy Constables of the Year!**

Johnny Clam Mankevetch and Chris Manulla were awarded Deputy Constables of the Year from the Mass. Shellfish Officers Assn.! Please congratulate them when you see them for their hard work and dedication to our town's shellfishing community. Many thanks to all of you who wrote letters of support; more than 50 were written and given to back to them. Your words touched them perhaps more than the award itself. Their certificates will be presented to them at an upcoming Selectboard meeting; stay tuned.

**2. Measuring Oysters**

An oyster harvested from the wild must measure three inches. The reason for this is that studies have shown that oysters have had time to spawn once they reach three inches. This spawning means that we create a sustainable fishery for the future. If we take smaller oysters out of the environment, we are depleting our future harvest opportunities. This is especially important now that oyster farmers can sell "petites," oysters that are between 2.5-3 inches, because we have gotten used to seeing a smaller oyster on our raw bar plate. It is best if you use an oyster ring (\$25 from Cape Fishermen's Supply in Chatham) or some tool to measure three inches. We have found problems with the rectangular gauges, so if you use a rectangle gauge, please lay the bottom shell of the oyster flat on the gauge with the hinge even with the outside bottom edge of the gauge. Then, make sure the oyster sticks out above the outside top edge of the gauge to be sure it is legal. Ask any of us out there for instructions, shoot us an email or give us a call. We are happy to help!

**3. Shellfish Department Perspective on HDYLTA Trust**

The Shellfish Department put together a memo supporting the potential purchase by the town of the intertidal and subtidal bottom on Indian Neck and Field Point from How Do You Like Them Apples (HDYLTA) Trust. We are continuing to do research and will inform the Selectboard of our findings. Read the memo [here](#). We also answered questions for Wellfleet Community Forum in a document you can read [here](#). This purchase is critical for the future of Wellfleet's shellfishing industry and for a clean harbor for all to enjoy. Terms and final price have yet to be negotiated and will be undertaken responsibly with the town's best interests in mind. Stay tuned for more info as we get closer to Town Meeting.

**4. Revolving Fund for Shellfish Propagation Article at Annual Town Meeting**

The Shellfish Department is bringing an article to Town Meeting that would establish a "revolving fund for shellfish propagation" that would be managed independently by the Shellfish Constable with oversight from the Selectboard. It would be funded by a percentage of the fees paid to the town for shellfishing permits and licenses. In this way, we will have to ask less from the general town tax base because the users of the shellfish resource will

actively contribute to the sustainable management of the shellfishery. The establishment of this fund will ensure that money is always available to undertake all of the efforts necessary to create abundant shellfish populations for your enjoyment. Please turn out for Town Meeting and learn more about this important article for Wellfleet's shellfishing future.

**5. Diamondback Terrapin Alert**

Diamondback terrapins, seen on land during April may be suffering from "cold-shock." If you sight one, please call the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary turtle hot line 508-349-2615 X 6104 and someone will come to retrieve it.

**6. Volunteers Needed to Help with our Shellfish Nursery**

Assistant Constable for Propagation Johnny Clam Mankevetch is looking for help with his shellfish nursery efforts this summer and fall. If you are interested in learning about shellfish farming and don't mind working out in the weather, please let us know via email, and we will start a volunteer group. Please bear in mind that physical labor is part of the work. It is also extremely gratifying, and Johnny is a wonderful teacher of the natural world.

Contact Nancy at [nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov](mailto:nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov) or 508-349-0325 with ideas for information to include in these communications. Thank you!

Nancy Civetta  
Shellfish Constable

John Mankevetch  
Assistant Shellfish Constable

Chris Manulla  
Deputy Shellfish Constable